

GEDDINGTON, NEWTON AND LITTLE OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2022 at 7.30pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillors N Batchelor, C Buckseall, T Bailey, P Goode, P Johnson, J Padwick, D Lomasney, M Rowley.

APOLOGIES

None.

005/23: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Cllr Batchelor, for agenda item 011/23.

Cllr Rowley for agenda item 011/23.

006/23: PUBLIC SESSION

a) Questions sent in by the public.

A member of the Cricket Club had volunteered to cut overgrown areas in the recreation field – stinging nettles on the far side of the field and weeds by the BMX track. He had approached the Parish Council to obtain prior approval for the areas of work. It was envisaged that machine hire would be approximately £250. Wild flowers would then be planted in the cut areas and he could carry out the work before the Jubilee weekend. It was believed that he would take away the weeds etc himself. He was also happy to carry out the same work on the pathway(s) leading up to Geddington Brickyard, but this area is not the Parish Council's responsibility. Boughton Estates does not mow the verges in May (wild flower maintenance). Councillors were agreed that the work can be carried out as long as they know that the resulting rubbish is disposed of correctly, and public liability insurance is in place.

Cllr Rowley added that agenda item 015/23 c) - (Tidy up meadow / dog walking field) refers to a similar situation, concerning the brambles in the dog walking area. NNC would not now support such a request as it is now a natural habitat.

After a discussion, Cllr Batchelor proposed that the work to the recreation area be authorised, with a maximum cap of £250 plus VAT for hire of the equipment, and an additional £100 to cover public liability insurance and any other dispersements. The disposal of the green waste must also be conveyed to the Parish Council. Seconded by Cllr Bailey, agreed by all councillors except for one abstention.

ACTION 1: The clerk to reply to John Brandrick informing him of the councillor's decision, and thanking him for the proposed voluntary work. The request to be given that if this is progressed, could he let the clerk know, and copied to Cllrs Batchelor and Lomasney.

b) Reports from North Northants Councillors.

Cllr Rowley conveyed that there was nothing to report.

007/23: MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING.

a) Approval of draft minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held 14th March 2022.

There was one observation made: a correction had been made on page 4 (088/22)

previous to the meeting, and the corrected minutes re-sent to all councillors. The uncorrected version had been sent out in error however with the other agenda documents. It was clarified that the corrected minutes that had been sent out was the version that was correct, and the incorrect version is to be deleted.

A further correction was made: under AOB, Street Watch was changed to Speed Watch. Pending the correction being made, Cllr Batchelor proposed and Cllr Bailey seconded that the minutes were a true record. Approved by all councillors present.

b) Matters arising; progress on agreed actions or outstanding actions.

14.3.22, action 1: Cllr Rowley to chase/ contact Highways (The culvert in Little Oakley). Cllr Rowley reported that Highways have agreed to fund it out of this year's budget, and he is aware that water is still coming off the road.

10.1.22, action 6: Level of HGVs using the A4300. Cllr Padwick had contacted Highways and will chase as no reply has been received.

14.3.22, action 3: The clerk will contact First Responders/ the Community Heartbeat Trust to clarify what will be happening going forward.

The clerk reported that basically nothing has changed, there was some confusion as to the First Responders were not aware that the defibrillator by the Post Office was already having maintenance checks.

14.3.22, action 5: Cllr Bailey will circulate all the points that he has raised (relating to items to be considered in a new lease).

14.3.22, action 6: (The Queen's Jubilee – Green Canopy). Cllr Lomasney to order the above trees. These have been ordered – they will be delivered in November ready to be planted in the growing season.

14.3.22, action 11: (Cllr Bailey has contacted Ncalc concerning the following but has not yet received an answer). The clerk to chase Ncalc concerning obtaining legal advice on the duties of the landowner or any other bodies as to altering any normal course of the water.

The clerk reported that a comprehensive email has been received.

ACTION 2: the clerk will circulate this (to all councillors) so that Cllr Batchelor has the information for just after the Jubilee weekend, as he wishes to try and convene a flood meeting to that time scale.

14.3.22, action 12: (To cut back ground foliage to the lime trees in Stamford Road): the clerk to obtain three quotes if possible to carry out maintenance work needed to the lower part of the trunks of the trees. The number is definitely two, with a maximum of five, with a maximum of £1000 for the whole job as an estimate. Two quotations had been received for the cutback of epicormic growth, and one quotation for the trees – risk assessment - in the recreation field and the dog walking area in The Meadow. Councillors agreed that the quotation from Ian Spencer should be accepted for the cutback of epicormic growth for £350. Spend for this work has already been authorised for up to £1000. The tree risk assessment (for the stability of the trees) to be accepted from the second company (Rose Tree Care) for £400.00. Spend for this work has already been authorised for up to £500. This to cover the recreation field and the dog walking area in The Meadows.

ACTION 3: The clerk will check that these two areas are covered within the quotation.

008/23: JUBILEE MEMORIAL, FEEDBACK, REVIEW OF QUOTATIONS AND DECISION TO BE MADE.

Councillors decided that a fitting memorial for the Queen’s Jubilee celebration would be a commemorative large boulder with a plaque, to be sited on the village green. Cllr Goode updated the meeting as to a suitable style and size of memorial that he had found/ been informed of. After reviewing the quotations received, the AJ Mills quotation of £1840.00 plus VAT was felt to be the best quotation. It was also thought that siting it on the village green may discourage parking on the green itself. Proposed by Cllr Batchelor that installation of the Jubilee Boulder be purchased and installed, seconded by Cllr Lomasney, all councillors approved the proposal.

ACTION 4: Cllr Lomasney to order the memorial, the clerk to give the correct address (for the invoice) to Cllr Lomasney for him to forward to AJ Mills, and co-ordination to take place with Cllrs Batchelor and Lomasney.

A site meeting will determine the exact positioning of the boulder.

009/23: FINANCE.

a) Bank balances

Community account statement as at 14.4.22 £53,517.86
Business Saver account as at 14.4.22 £10,781.29

b) Accounts received

None.

c) i) Accounts for payment.

Geddington Village Hall	Hire of lounge for meetings, 1 st half 2022	175.00
Boughton Estates Ltd	Playing field rental 30.9.21 – 29.3.22	570.00
Boughton Estates Ltd@	Slade footpath, Geddington 25.3.22 – 24.3.23-	0.05

Cllr Batchelor proposed that the first three payments (above) were authorised, seconded by Cllr Goode, approved by all councillors present.

Motion to exclude the Public and Press for agenda item 5b,ii): In accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Administration of Meetings) Act 1960, in that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

ii) National Local Government salary increase for parish clerk/RFO for 2021 - 22, for decision.

The clerk then left the room whilst the above agenda item was discussed.

Anita Curtis –	1.4.21 to 31.3.22 National salary increase if agreed. (back-salary)	96.91
Anita Curtis – reimbursement of additional PAYE paid by	1.4.21 to 31.3.22 National salary increase if agreed – resulting additional PAYE already paid,	19.38

AC's own debit card 30.4.22.	(Back-PAYE)	
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Following councillors' decision, the clerk then returned to the room. She was informed that the National salary increase for the clerk had been agreed by councillors. It had been proposed by Cllr Batchelor, seconded by Cllr Johnson, agreed by all councillors present.

010/23: ASSET MAPPING PROJECT (AMP).

a) Progress.

Cllr Goode was thanked for all the work he had carried out on this project, and to Cllrs Bailey and Lomasney for their input for Little Oakley and Newton. He did not see how he could have got a working party together within the time scales involved, so he had entered the information himself. Cllr Goode stated that as far as he was aware, everything that should have been achieved has been achieved. Items such as the 111 street lamps have not been logged to their exact area, likewise with salt bins. Wardens have been ticked on Parish Online and there may be one or two other items that NNC may come back to the Parish Council for more information in the future. He summarised by stating that it is the pre-cursor to the possibility of devolution.

011/23: STONEPIT LAND – consideration of terms of new leases – for discussion.

Cllr Bailey said that a decision needs to be made as to the many considerations that need to be addressed when consideration is given to what needs to be included in a new lease. A solicitor can give advice, but they will need guidance as to what the Parish Council wishes to be included. As to tenants, the present users are valid users. The aim is not to change the tenants, just to make sure that the tenancy agreement is "fit for purpose". The present leases are too vague, and it was felt that now is the time to clarify issues. The present tenants will have the opportunity to have input into a new lease.

Several different current issues were raised as an example of issues that need to be clarified.

It was decided that a working party was needed, with Cllr Bailey being the lead, and other councillors willing to take part were Cllrs Padwick and Buckseall. They will come back to councillors with a list of bullet points and recommendations. The aim will be to highlight what should be in the lease, and indicate if it is there already. A list of confirmations and changes can then be proposed and agreed, and then consultation can take place with the Youth Club and Fire Brigade. The working party will try to arrange to meet before the June meeting so that any considerations can be brought to the July meeting.

PLANNING.

a) KBC Decision notices

NK/2022/0107: Mr K Higgins, 1 Chase Hill, Geddington.

Two storey side and rear extension and first floor rear extension

Full Application.

Approved

NK/2022/0052

Mr & Mrs T Skipper: Glebe House, 21 West Street, Geddington.

Queen Eleanor (pre 2007 boundary review).

Partial demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

Full Application

Refused.

*NK/2022/0079: Mr & Mrs Overman, 20 Wood Street, Geddington.
Single storey side extension with timber cladding, to create a double garage
Full Application. Approved.*

*NK/2021/0155: Mrs T Barley: 8 Access Road To Newton House, Newton.
Single storey side extension, installation of air source heat pump, replacement
windows and doors, block up two first floor windows, replace side shop window and
central door with windows, porch to front, expansion to driveway and landscape.
Replace wooden window lintels and sills with stone. Change glass door to match front
composite porch door. Change location of solar panels to main south facing roof
Approved.*

*NK/2022/0216: Mr & Mrs Parker, 5 Newton.
Replace dining room wall with stud partition, reposition bathroom to first floor, replace
windows with double glazing and repair frames where necessary and install air
source heat pump. Listed Building Consent Application.
Non-Material Amendment Approved.*

*Cllr Buckseall reported that further documents have been uploaded on to the
Larkfleet Homes application. One document "Lead local flood authority response"
says that they are fine with the matters relating to flooding. It was clarified that the
application is an "Entry Level Exception Site".*

b) Planning Applications for consideration.

There were no planning applications for consideration.

012/23: PARISH PLAN.

Facilities for young people and adults:-

a) Outdoor gym – decision to be made as to whether the proposal should be progressed.

Cllr Padwick reported that himself and John Goodall are now just waiting for people to confirm that they want this project to in principle go ahead. Once that is given the group can explore as to any funding available from landfill, which has to be carried out by 31st August. Before this date the support from village residents needs to be gauged by sending a questionnaire to village residents.

Other points raised:-

-Planning permission would be needed.

-Leisure officers have said that they do not think a concrete table tennis is a priority.

-Mick George has previously said "planning permission if appropriate should be in place".

Results of the questionnaire should be obtained first, then planning permission needs to be submitted.

One councillor believes that it would not be well used, another councillor believes the high footfall in the park will ensure that it is well used. Another councillor believes that it will be used as well by more mature residents in the village, and there have been several requests for such equipment to be provided as a village facility.

Cllr Padwick will devise a questionnaire that could go into the newsletter, the deadline for articles which is at the end of the following week. It will include wording to gauge what pieces of equipment may be the best ones to consider.

b) MUGA [Multi Activity Games Area]. Update.

Cllr Padwick said the MUGA is not for discussion at the moment, it is an aspiration. The siting of it is difficult, and there was talk of the school having a MUGA on their site. There are also difficulties connected with lighting requirements. He would like to see such an amenity in the village however. A potential site for a MUGA may become available in a year or two.

c) New Parish Plan - draft questionnaire for all residents. Update.

Cllr Padwick has sent a draft questionnaire to the clerk, to be circulate after this meeting. Any comments to be submitted to Cllr Padwick by 23rd May. This will then be an agenda item on the June agenda.

013/23: FLOODING.

a) To receive any updates including those from the March meeting of the flood working group.

Cllr Batchelor had given a comprehensive update at the March meeting, and it is expected that the next meeting will take place after the Jubilee weekend.

b) To discuss and determine next steps.

The next step is to go through the Pathfinder report.

Noted that the earlier news as to the culvert in Little Oakley from Cllr Rowley was welcomed.

014/23: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED AND CIRCULATED - items to note or comment upon.

One email had been received – this was discussed and a decision made within agenda item “Public Session”.

015/23: ENVIRONMENT.

a) Extension car park application –update?

Cllr Goode gave an update. There are no outstanding conditions clauses or conditions to discharge. Full planning application approval is now in place. Validation of assumptions within the document put forward is the next step, as it has been some time since these were put in place. He urged councillors to liaise with Steve Humphries (village hall representative from the Bowling Club) and the Chair of the Village Hall for the revalidation process.

The most recent discharge was from the NNC archaeologists who had no issues with the area becoming a car park. Assurances have been given that no excavation would take place. It is stated in the planning approval that certain conditions can be varied within it.

It was stated that it would be a positive move to tie in with Roy Courtney-Deal for the tendering process. This was agreed, with Cllr Lomasney stating that he will contact Roy Courtney-Deal and give an update at the next meeting.

b) Donation of one (or two) oak trees by Boughton Estates for the parish in recognition of the Jubilee and the Queen's Green Canopy - placing to be agreed.

It was thought that placement of a tree near the cricket club where a stump is visible may be ideal, but this may be closer than 10 metres to the Cricket Club. Siting would need to be at least 10 metres from the bottom of the slope near the Cricket Club. The potential second tree to be placed the other side of the Bowls Cub.

ACTION 5: Cllr Batchelor will contact the Cricket Club (regarding daily watering) and get back to the Parish Clerk.

c) Tidy up meadow / dog walking field.

Cllr Rowley

A member of the public had contacted Cllr Rowley about the above agenda item.

Concerning the slope in the dog walking area towards the main road, this area is now full of brambles. Another area between the footpath and the field which has horses in it also contains brambles. The member of the public has asked if they can tidy these two areas up. However, the two areas would both now be classed as an existing habitat and the former KBC would not touch areas like these.

It was agreed that it is a wild and natural area.

ACTION 6: Cllr Rowley will inform the resident of the Parish Council's views on this matter.

d) Permission sought to trim some low hanging branches of the chestnut tree on the Village /Church Green.

Cllr Batchelor.

Cllr Batchelor raised the above issue asking if some of the low hanging branches on the above tree could be cut back a little, as the Reverend Gillian has said they are getting in the way of funerals and weddings. She is happy for them to be cut back. Councils agreed to this.

016/23: PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION ANNUAL PARKING REVIEW 21/22- for information and any questions to be raised. (Extension for reply to 10.5.22 requested).

The Parish Council have been asked if they are happy for the yellow lines to be installed in Hall Close. It was noted that the request for yellow lines was carried out on behalf of Hall Close residents, who were worried that an ambulance would not get into the Close. Once yellow lines are in place, Enforcement Officers can issue a ticket to irresponsible people parking in a narrow space.

After a discussion the Parish Council agreed that they were happy with it.

ACTION 7: The clerk will reply to NNC.

NEWTON.

None.

LITTLE OAKLEY.

Painting of the telephone kiosk – request.

Cllr Bailey reported that the residents wished to install the defibrillator in the telephone kiosk. The kiosk by the Post Office and in Newton had been painted by residents.

ACTION 8: Cllr Batchelor will send an email to the two people who painted the above kiosks and copy Cllr Bailey in. They will be able to advise as to paint used, primer etc.

AOB

Cllr Rowley had recently spoken to two Enforcement Officers to ask them what they do in the villages. They said that they come to Geddington quite often. Cllr Rowley has asked them if they could be more of a presence in the village, including around the school.

Cllr Batchelor will speak to Kensigns as to the Chairman's board that was updated but kept in storage whilst the lounge was being redecorated.

Cllr Padwick said that the consultation on the North Northants Strategic Plan closes on 23rd May. It is an important document as this initial consultation turns into what was the Joint Core Strategy – which states where land can be turned into employment purposes.

Cllr Goode wished to say thank you to councillors for the last few years. Health issues within his immediate family had necessitated his resignation as a councillor; he wished it to be known that there were no other issues. Councillors then applauded to shown appreciation for his input as a parish councillor.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

Anita Curtis - Parish Clerk
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